AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A heterogeneous ruthenium catalyst comprising a support material ~~based on~~ comprising amorphous silicon dioxide, wherein the ~~percentage~~ ratio of ~~the~~ signal intensities of the Q_2 and Q_3 structures Q_2/Q_3 in the silicon dioxide as determined by ~~means of~~ solid-state ^{29}Si-NMR is less than 25.

2. (Currently amended) The ruthenium catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the ~~percentage~~ ratio of the signal intensities of the Q_2 and Q_3 structures Q_2/Q_3 is less than 20.

3. (Currently amended) The ruthenium catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the ~~percentage~~ ratio of the signal intensities of the Q_2 and Q_3 structures Q_2/Q_3 is less than 15.

4. (Currently amended) The ruthenium catalyst according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the total concentration of Al(III) and Fe(II and/or III) in the silicon dioxide is less than 300 ppm by weight.

5. (Currently amended) The ruthenium catalyst according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the total concentration of Al(III) and Fe(II and/or III) in the silicon dioxide is less than 200 ppm by weight.

6. (Currently amended) The ruthenium catalyst according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the silicon dioxide comprises alkaline earth metal cations ~~(M^{2+}) are comprised in the silicon dioxide~~ (M II) in a weight ratio of M(II) : (Al(III) + Fe(II and/or III)) of [>] greater than 0.5.

7. (Currently amended) The ruthenium catalyst according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5, wherein alkaline earth metal cations (M^{2+}) are comprised in the silicon dioxide in a~~ claim 6, wherein the weight ratio of M(II) : (Al(III) + Fe(II and/or III)) [of >] is greater than 1.

8. (Currently amended) The ruthenium catalyst according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5, wherein alkaline earth metal cations (M^{2+}) are comprised in the silicon dioxide in a~~ claim 6, wherein the weight ratio of M(II) : (Al(III) + Fe(II and/or III)) [of >] is greater than 3.

9. (Currently amended) The ruthenium catalyst according to ~~any of the preceding claims which has been~~ claim 1 produced by single or multiple impregnation of the support material with a solution of ruthenium(III) acetate, drying and reduction.

10. (Currently amended) The ruthenium catalyst according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the support material ~~based on amorphous silicon dioxide~~ has a BET surface area (in accordance with DIN 66131) ~~in the range~~ from 30 to 700 m^2/g.

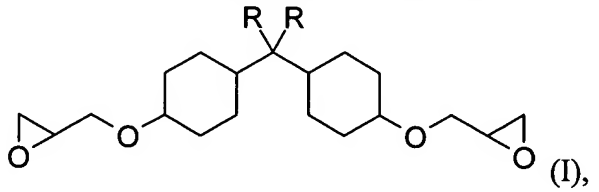
11. (Currently amended) The ruthenium catalyst according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprises from 0.2 to 10% by weight of ruthenium, based on the weight of the silicon dioxide support material.

12. (Currently amended) The ruthenium catalyst according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 11, wherein the catalyst comprises less than 0.05% by weight of halide (determined by ion chromatography), based on the total weight of the catalyst.

13. (Currently amended) The ruthenium catalyst according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprises ~~a support material based on silicon dioxide and~~ elemental ruthenium, ~~with the ruthenium being~~ concentrated as a shell at the catalyst surface.

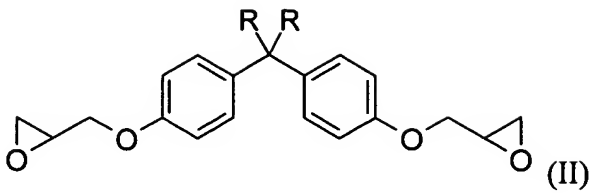
14. (Currently amended) The ruthenium catalyst according to ~~the preceding claim~~ claim 13, wherein the elemental ruthenium in the shell is partially or fully crystalline.

15. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a bisglycidyl ether of ~~the~~ formula I



(I),

where R is CH_3 or H, by ring hydrogenation of the corresponding aromatic bisglycidyl ether of ~~the~~ formula II



(II)

in the presence of a ~~catalyst, wherein a~~ heterogeneous ruthenium catalyst according to ~~any of claims 1 to 14 is used~~ claim 1.

16. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 15, wherein the aromatic bisglycidyl ether of the formula II ~~which is used~~ has a content of corresponding oligomeric bisglycidyl ethers of less than 10% by weight.

17. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 15, wherein the aromatic bisglycidyl ether of the formula II ~~which is used~~ has a content of corresponding oligomeric bisglycidyl ethers of less than 5% by weight.

18. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 15, wherein the aromatic bisglycidyl ether of the formula II ~~which is used~~ has a content of corresponding oligomeric bisglycidyl ethers of less than 1.5% by weight.

19. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 15, wherein the aromatic bisglycidyl ether of the formula II ~~which is used~~ has a content of corresponding oligomeric bisglycidyl ethers of less than 0.5% by weight.

20. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 16 to 19~~ claim 16, wherein the content of oligomeric bisglycidyl ethers is determined by heating the aromatic bisglycidyl ether at 200°C for 2 hours and at 300°C for a further 2 hours, in each case at 3 mbar.

21. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 16 to 19~~ claim 16, wherein the content of oligomeric bisglycidyl ethers is determined by ~~means of~~ GPC (gel permeation chromatography).

22. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 21, wherein the content of oligomeric bisglycidyl ethers in % by area as determined by GPC measurement is equated to a content in % by weight.

23. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 16 to 22~~ claim 16, wherein the oligomeric bisglycidyl ethers have a molecular weight as determined by GPC ~~in the range~~ from 380 to 1500 g/mol.

24. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 16 to 22~~ claim 16, wherein the oligomeric bisglycidyl ethers have a molecular weight ~~in the range~~ from 568 to 1338 g/mol when R = H, or ~~and have~~ a molecular weight ~~in the range~~ from 624 to 1478 g/mol when R = CH_3.

25. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 15 to 24~~ claim 15, wherein the hydrogenation is ~~carried out~~ conducted at a temperature ~~in the range~~ from 30 to 150°C.

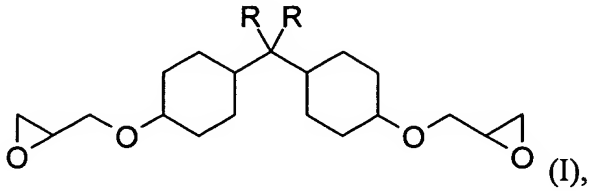
26. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 15 to 25~~ claim 25, wherein the hydrogenation is ~~carried out~~ conducted at an absolute hydrogen pressure ~~in the range~~ from 10 to 325 bar.

27. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 15 to 26~~ claim 15, wherein the hydrogenation is ~~carried out~~ conducted over a fixed bed of catalyst.

28. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 15 to 26~~ claim 15, wherein the hydrogenation is ~~carried out~~ conducted in a liquid phase in which the catalyst is present ~~in the form of~~ as a suspension.

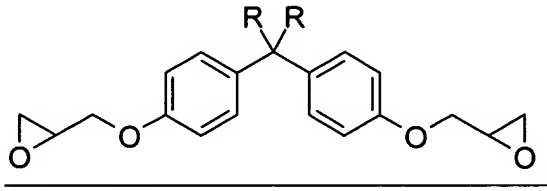
29. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 15 to 28~~ claim 15, wherein the aromatic bisglycidyl ether of the formula II is ~~used as~~ a solution in an organic solvent which is inert in respect of the hydrogenation, ~~with~~ the solution comprising from 0.1 to 10% by weight water, based on the solvent, ~~of water~~.

30. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A process ~~according to any of claims 15 to 29~~ for preparing bisglycidyl ethers of ~~the~~ formula I



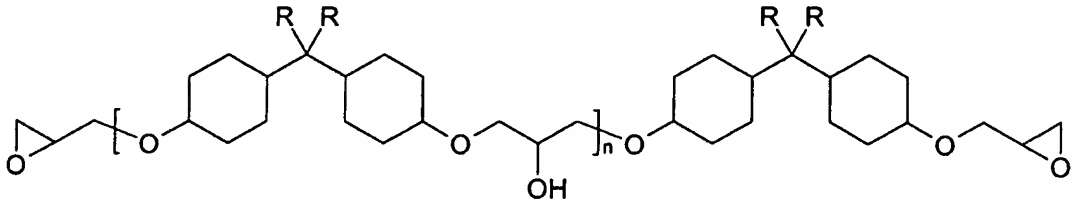
(I),

where R is CH_3 or H, by ring hydrogenation of the corresponding aromatic bisglycidyl ether of the formula II



(II)

in the presence of a heterogeneous ruthenium catalyst according to claim 1.
~~which have~~ wherein the produced bisglycidyl ethers include a content of ~~corresponding~~ oligomeric ring-hydrogenated bisglycidyl ethers of the formula



where n = 1, 2, 3 or 4, of less than 10% by weight.

31. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 30, wherein the bisglycidyl ether of the formula I has a content of corresponding oligomeric ring-hydrogenated biglycidyl ethers of less than 5% by weight.

32. (Original) The process according to claim 30, wherein the bisglycidyl ether of the formula I has a content of corresponding oligomeric ring-hydrogenated bisglycidyl ethers of less than 1.5% by weight.

33. (Original) The process according to claim 30, wherein the bisglycidyl ether of the formula I has a content of corresponding oligomeric ring-hydrogenated bisglycidyl ethers of less than 0.5% by weight.

34. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 30 to 33~~ claim 31, wherein the content of oligomeric ring-hydrogenated bisglycidyl ethers is determined by heating the aromatic bisglycidyl ether for 2 hours at 200°C and for a further 2 hours at 300°C, in each case at 3 mbar.

35. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 30 to 33~~ claim 30, wherein the content of oligomeric ring-hydrogenated bisglycidyl ethers is determined by GPC measurement (gel permeation chromatography).

36. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 35, wherein the content of oligomeric bisglycidyl ethers in % by area as determined by GPC measurement is equated to a content in % by weight.

37. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 30 to 36~~ claim 30, wherein the bisglycidyl ether of the formula I has a total chlorine content determined in accordance with DIN 51408 of less than 1000 ppm by weight.

38. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 30 to 37~~ claim 30, wherein the bisglycidyl ether of the formula I has a ruthenium content determined by mass spectrometry combined with inductively coupled plasma (ICP-MS) of less than 0.3 ppm by weight.

39. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 30 to 38~~ claim 30, wherein the bisglycidyl ether of the formula I has a platinum-cobalt color number (APHA color number) determined in accordance with DIN ISO 6271 of less than 30.

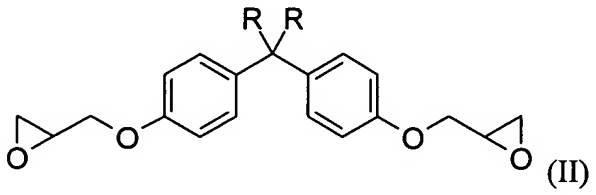
40. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 30 to 39~~ claim 30, wherein the bisglycidyl ether of the formula I has an epoxy equivalent weight determined in accordance with the standard ASTM-D-1652-88 ~~in the range~~ from 170 to 240 g/equivalent.

41. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 30 to 40~~ claim 30, wherein the bisglycidyl ether of the formula I has a proportion of hydrolyzable chlorine determined in accordance with DIN 53188 of less than 500 ppm by weight.

42. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 30 to 41~~ claim 30, wherein the bisglycidyl ether of the formula I has a kinematic viscosity determined in accordance with DIN 51562 of less than 800 mm^2/s at 25°C.

43. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 30 to 42~~ claim 30, wherein the bisglycidyl ether of the formula I has a cis-cis:cis-trans:trans-trans isomer ratio in the range 44-63%:34-53%:3-22%.

44. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 30 to 43~~ claim 30, wherein the bisglycidyl ether is obtained by complete hydrogenation of the aromatic rings of a bisglycidyl ether of the formula II



(II)

where R is CH_3 or H, with the degree of hydrogenation being > 98%.